

## HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Americans are growing tired of having to speculate about what is in a 1,000-plus page bill that is still being drafted in secret behind closed doors. The American people want transparency in this process, and they want real bipartisan reform. They want a step-by-step approach.

Why don't we work together out in the sunshine and add even a few of the elements Republicans have presented in our 53 health care alternatives?

One of these alternatives is my OPTION Act, H.R. 3889, that among other things would, number one, make the purchase of health insurance more affordable to more people. It would allow transparency in health care pricing; make all health care-related expenses tax deductible for everybody; and allow for individuals to keep their health insurance once they leave their jobs or shop across State lines.

We must bring health care reform back from the partisan abyss and give the American people real bipartisan health care reform.

## RECOVERY ACT AIDING UPSTATE NEW YORK

(Mr. MAFFEI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about some of the recent investments that the Recovery Act has made in my home district in upstate New York.

A few weeks ago, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu came to Syracuse to tour some of our innovative renewable energy research facilities. When he was in town, we announced more than \$1.4 million in funding for energy efficiency programs in the city of Syracuse alone. The doors, windows, heating and cooling system at City Hall will be switched to a high efficiency, energy saving model. This is a great investment, because not only does it provide for lower carbon emissions, it will actually reduce the energy bills that Syracuse taxpayers will have to foot.

This weekend, I announced energy efficiency funding for the town of Irondequoit. Irondequoit has already had an impressive energy plan in place, so they will make the most of the \$440,000 grant. Irondequoit will pursue projects like replacing lightbulbs at often-used public parks and creating a Deputy Commissioner of Public Works for Sustainability.

In my district, Mr. Speaker, the Recovery Act is making smart short-term and long-term investments. It is giving communities in my district the flexibility of making improvements and creating jobs.

## HEALTH CARE

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. This Saturday, as Americans celebrate Halloween, we should learn a valuable lesson from the frightening results Dr. Frankenstein's medical experimentation had.

Today, Congress is debating its own dangerous health care experiment. Stitched together in hidden laboratories from parts of at least five different bills and countless special interests, the final health care monster will ultimately hurt American seniors.

In Montana alone, more than 26,000 seniors choose to use Medicare Advantage. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office warns of \$162 billion in cuts to this popular program. Those will hurt those Montana seniors. Worse, this plan will increase the cost of prescription drug premiums for seniors by 20 percent over the next 10 years.

When it comes to America's health care system, the stakes are too high for reckless legislative experimentation. No one will remember how the monster was made, but they will remember the damage it did.

## HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, we are treated this afternoon to a steady stream of people rising, despite what they say, in opposition to fundamental health care reform. This long line of speakers, what do they have in common, apart from their party affiliation? They have really good health care, and they have got jobs guaranteed until January of 2011.

What about the millions of Americans who find themselves without jobs today and who, as they think about what the future holds, also think about what they are terrified by the fact that their child may not be able to see a doctor when that child needs to?

We should talk about tort reform. We should talk about interstate competition of insurance. But only the bill being discussed now, not in secret, only the bill being discussed now provides for the coverage of those many millions of Americans who have lost their job in this recession. That is serious business, and that is what this House should continue to focus on.

## HEALTH CARE

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, the people of my district are frustrated and they are scared. They feel like their Federal Government is out of control.

Now Speaker PELOSI is playing a game of hide-and-seek with a health care system that comprises one-fifth of our GDP.

The American people would like to know what you are hiding as they seek to find out what is in this bill, this massive, government-run health care bill. Perhaps you are hiding the fact that this will lead to government bureaucrats taking over control of seniors' health care.

Maybe you are hiding the fact that this bill is designed to include \$163 billion in cuts to Medicare Advantage. These cuts will have an exceptionally harmful impact on seniors in rural areas, forcing many seniors into a one-size-fits-all government-run health care plan.

I would like to know, but I haven't seen the details of the bill because I don't know where they are hiding today. If you claim that it is true that the American people want government to take over health care, why is this process so closed and secretive, Madam Speaker?

The American people and our seniors deserve to know better. Madam Speaker, where are you?

## OPENING OF THE JAMES A. FARLEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I attended the opening of the James A. Farley Bridge in Stony Point, New York. Eight months ago, that bridge was 80 years old and structurally deficient, one of 13 deficient bridges on the list issued by DOT after the I-35 bridge collapse in Minnesota.

This Monday, just yesterday, thanks to the hard work of so many, we celebrated the early opening of its replacement. This project is more than just a bridge; it is an investment in our community, in our country and in our future. It created jobs that cannot be outsourced, while strengthening the local communities.

The new bridge will hold three lanes of traffic and sidewalks on either side, keep our communities connected, reduce congestion, and strengthen the Route 9W corridor, providing faster response times for local EMS and less noise for neighborhoods with reduced detoured traffic.

We should celebrate the cooperation between Federal, State and local government officials, especially the supervisors, Howard Phillips and Phil Marino from Stony Point and Haverstraw, the two towns joined by the bridge. I would like to congratulate them and all the workers on a job well done.

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(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission